

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH.

*With
the Compliments of the
Medical Officer
of Health*

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

Including the Report of the
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1953

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

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*Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. NICHOLLS

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Medical Officer of Health :

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. S. LEWIS, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.,
Food Inspection.

Sanitary Inspectors :

J. F. PICKLES, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.,
Food Inspection.

D. G. RUSSELL, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD.

(Resigned 16th May, 1954).

A. PARTINGTON, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD

(Appointed 26th July, 1953).

Clerks :

Miss M. M. Helme.

Mrs. S. Taylor *(Resigned 30th April, 1953).*

Miss E. Simms *(Appointed 12th September, 1953).*

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, together with the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report, for the year 1953.

This is the tenth year in which I have been privileged to present an Annual Report covering a full year as your Medical Officer of Health. This then seems the occasion for retrospection.

It is an interesting ten years, beginning with a war that was drawing to an end and bringing in its wake the struggles of a war weary country to return to a period of peace and prosperity.

For the wage earner there was little prosperity. Prices were high, rationing of foodstuffs had to be maintained and the shortage of houses and the difficulty of maintaining old houses in reasonable repair inflicted a great many hardships on a great many people.

In 1944, Farnworth was a young Borough with a civic pride in its accomplishments and its public services.

It was an Education and Maternity and Child Welfare Authority which, besides looking well after the education of its children, also had an excellent school medical service with a modern Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinic, at that time unsurpassed in the county for its appointments. The people of Farnworth were clinic minded and full use was made of the services offered at the clinic.

The Borough had a Maternity Service of which it was justly proud. In February of 1944 it inaugurated a maternity scheme that removed a great deal of the financial burden of pregnancy from the mother. Expectant mothers were admitted to Townleys Hospital or St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, at charges proportionate to the family income, but these charges to the mother were only applied for 12 days or a lesser period. This scheme removed the financial anxiety the mother would have if her stay in hospital was prolonged over the 12 days.

"This is a most progressive step in Maternity Welfare. Under the old scheme an expectant mother, kept in hospital longer than 12 days, was faced with added expense for which she herself could hardly be held responsible. A mother convalescing from a difficult childbirth is, under the new scheme, happily saved from such worries which prevent a rapid recovery. . . ." (Annual Report, 1944).

In 1944 there were 198 expectant mothers delivered in hospital out of a total of 336 who attended the Ante-natal Clinic, almost 59%. (This figure for 1953 is almost 48%).

The Farnworth Health Services of these days had much to commend them. A new Borough, proud of its services, it had a progressive policy that augured well for the future. However, in the years to follow there came a number of new Acts and Regulations which altered considerably local government administration and while removing the responsibility of some of the services

from the smaller Boroughs like Farnworth, increased the work of a health department in other channels.

The Education Act, 1944, removed from Farnworth all the powers relating to education. The County Council became the Education Authority and set up in the County 26 Education Divisions with a local Divisional Education Committee and Divisional Education Officer.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, which came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, transferred from Farnworth to the County Council all powers relating to Maternity and Child Welfare. The County was divided into 17 Health Divisions totally unrelated to the Education Divisions.

It would be comforting if one could believe that these transferred services were at least as good as they were but the remote impersonal service of the Lancashire County Council cannot compare with the intimate enthusiastic administration of a smaller area.

Causes of Death

In Table I the main causes of death for the last ten years are given.

TABLE I
MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH — BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	Cancer	Heart Disease	Coronary Disease	Accidental	Suicidal	Pneumonia	Bronchitis
1944	19	3	42	93		9	4	3	23
1945	12	1	55	79		5	2	11	38
1946	9	—	56	88		9	3	11	36
1947	8	—	57	86		14	—	16	32
1948	8	1	54	90		11	5	11	17
1949	7	—	45	116		13	3	14	35
1950	5	1	72	75	38	9	2	10	29
1951	14	1	56	83	43	10	6	16	45
1952	4	—	59	74	44	17	1	10	24
1953	2	—	56	62	44	7	4	11	24

The most striking improvement is shown in the deaths from tuberculosis. There is little increase in the deaths from cancer and although figures for Farnworth for these years for cancer of the lung are not available, it has occurred as a cause of death more frequently in later years. There will still be much argument as to how much smoking, particularly cigarette smoking, is concerned in this disease. In any case, cigarette smoke, fog, smog, including

the smoke from domestic chimneys, when inhaled are all lung irritants and any constant irritant may lead to a cancer.

In 1950 separate figures were given for deaths from disease of the coronary artery. There is no doubt that coronary thrombosis has increased considerably since the war. Excessive worry, hard work, anxiety in any form are the precursors of coronary thrombosis.

Heart disease in some form or other accounts for most of the deaths, with diseases of the lungs (bronchitis and pneumonia) following those due to cancer.

The severe winter of the last months of 1950 and the early months of 1951 accounted for the high number of deaths in 1950 and 1951. Bronchitis or pneumonia, if not the primary cause, was a contributory cause in a large number of the deaths in those years.

Span of Life

It is well to realise, however, that we are living longer as can be seen in Table II which gives the deaths in age groups.

TABLE II
DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS — BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Year	0-5	6-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-65	66-70	71-75	76-80	81+	Total
1944	26	3	5	13	14	20	54	30	41	47	36	28	317
1945	30	2	2	3	7	27	46	40	56	55	43	34	345
1946	29	—	3	5	11	28	52	33	36	52	50	38	337
1947	27	3	1	8	10	28	38	40	51	50	62	40	358
1948	20	1	8	5	8	17	50	43	39	36	56	36	319
1949	24	1	4	7	11	26	43	33	44	72	62	37	364
1950	28	1	2	6	8	20	42	44	49	76	57	53	386
1951	16	3	—	4	12	25	55	47	65	58	63	61	409
1952	11	2	1	7	7	18	44	39	47	58	55	50	339
1953	15	—	—	1	6	24	35	49	41	44	50	60	325

This is as it should be with the greater resources of the Public and the National Health Services, together with the introduction of chemio-therapy in the form of penicillin and the numerous sulphonamides and other chemical agents.

The increase in the Farnworth residents who have lived beyond the age of eighty years since 1944 is remarkable.

In Table III the age groups for 0 - 30 years and 71 plus are given and, as we would wish it, fewer are dying young and more are living beyond the three score years and ten. Expressed as a percentage of the total deaths, deaths over 71 were 35% of the total deaths in Farnworth in 1944 and in 1953 this percentage rose to 47·3%.

TABLE III
BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH
PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS IN YOUTH AND OLD AGE

Year	Ages 0 - 30		Ages 71 +	
	No.	Percentage total deaths	No.	Percentage total deaths
1944	47	14.4	111	35.0
1945	37	10.6	132	38.2
1946	37	10.9	140	41.5
1947	39	10.9	152	42.4
1948	34	10.6	128	40.1
1949	36	9.8	171	46.9
1950	37	9.5	186	48.1
1951	23	5.6	182	44.4
1952	21	6.1	163	48.0
1953	16	4.9	154	47.3

The Old People

There are more old people today than there were and they constitute a problem beset with many difficulties. If longevity is to go on increasing, then it is unfair to those women over 60 and men over 65, who are still active and fit, to be expected to retire unless there are instituted nationally schemes to keep them occupied.

Something that must be done almost every day, whether it is work or a hobby, is one of the essentials of good health. As long as one continues to use brain, muscles and senses they will function, however imperfectly, but nothing leads to atrophy quicker than disuse. It is a poor prospect for a fit active man or woman approaching retiring age to know that one day they are going to get up in the morning and then wonder "What shall I do?"

The Farnworth Old People's Welfare Council, which is affiliated to the National Council, has accomplished much in the service to old people.

There are "Over 60 Clubs" in Farnworth and a chiropody service for old people has been instituted at the Farnworth Clinic.

They now hope to organise a visiting scheme and a library service.

This Council has no source of income other than charitable donations. It has done and can go on doing most valuable work in its sphere if it is supported.*

If the progress in medical science and the advances in realms of Public Health enable people to live longer, then we must ensure that longevity does not lead to loneliness, misery and want.

The Aged and Infirm

The old people who by reason of illness or infirmity are unable to look after themselves present a more formidable problem.

There is at present insufficient hospital or institutional accommodation for these people. Only the most urgent cases can at times be found beds in hospital.

Most old people are loth to leave their own surroundings. They want to cling to their own home because it is a country known to them. It is the last bulwark of independence. Some of these are without relatives; some have relatives living in other parts of the country and some have relatives who are indifferent to their fate. They have to depend on the help of kindly neighbours and what assistance the Health Visitor, the District Nurse and the Home Help Service can give them. There are too many in the third group and sometimes sons and daughters make little effort to help or care for ageing parents. There is less home life today and the attitude of mind of former years where a family would endure all hardships to save a relative the disgrace of going into the "Poor House" no longer endures.

It would be a great catastrophe if these times of generous State aid, with nurseries, nursery schools, school dinners, school milk, hospital treatment, dental treatment, medical treatment, all obtainable at trivial cost, should breed a nation lacking such sense of responsibility to themselves and their families that the fifth Commandment has, for them, no meaning.

Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infantile Mortality Rate

In Table IV the birth and death rates are given, together with the infantile mortality rate for the years 1944 - 53.

TABLE IV
BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Year	Infant Mortality		Birth Rate		Death Rate	
	Farn-worth	England & Wales	Farn-worth	England & Wales	Farn-worth	England & Wales
1944	39.8	46	19.8	17.6	12.5	11.6
1945	64	46	17.1	16.1	13.6	11.4
1946	41	43	19.4	19.1	12.4	11.5
1947	37	41	22.1	20.5	13.0	12.0
1948	28	34	17.1	17.9	11.2	10.8
1949	37	32	17.3	16.7	12.9	11.7
1950	47	29.8	16.7	15.8	13.7	11.6
1951	32	29.6	15.4	15.5	14.7	12.5
1952	21	27.6	15.4	15.3	12.2	11.3
1953	32	26.8	15.4	15.5	11.7	11.4
Average 10 years	37.88	35.58	17.57	17.0	12.79	11.58

The death rate remains fairly constant as must be expected and the birth rate has declined from the high figures of the war years.

The figures for England and Wales for these rates are also given for comparison.

Of great interest is Table V, which gives these rates in Farnworth for the years 1904 to 1913, forty years ago.

TABLE V
BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Year	Infant Mortality	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1904	262	27.5	19.0
1905	226	28.8	18.8
1906	188	25.8	17.1
1907	150	27.0	15.7
1908	206	27.9	16.6
1909	161	25.9	15.5
1910	134	25.0	12.5
1911	224	23.3	16.5
1912	109	22.7	12.5
1913	215	22.4	15.0
Average — 10 years	187.5	25.63	15.92

The infantile mortality rate averaged 187.5 for these ten years and 37.88 for the recent ten years. This is progress indeed.

Interesting too is the declining birth rate which averaged 25.63 for the earlier ten years and 17.57 for the recent years. The days of large families are over. This is a pity for it can be said that there exists more esprit de famille in a large family than in a small one and the neglect of aged parents is seldom met with in large families.

The death rate has fallen from an average of 15.92 for the early years to 12.79 for the present years.

These rates, it should be remembered, are calculated on 1,000 live births in the case of infantile mortality, and on 1,000 population for the birth and death rates.

Infectious Diseases

Table VI gives the infectious diseases which occurred in the Borough during the last ten years.

TABLE VI
INFECTIOUS DISEASE — BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis	Dysentery	Acute Poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid Fever	Typhoid Fever	Food Poisoning
1944....	31	18	33	12	1	1	11	178	24	27	-	-	-	-	-
1945....	43	2	23	6	1	2	9	157	76	20	1	-	-	-	-
1946....	16	14	27	12	2	3	4	61	122	15	-	-	-	-	-
1947....	39	1	31	3	4	2	3	423	99	12	-	13	-	-	-
1948....	116	-	30	-	-	1	4	526	139	29	1	1	-	-	-
1949....	59	-	23	-	-	-	6	81	134	32	-	1	3	-	56
1950....	39	-	29	1	1	2	3	303	62	20	3	1	-	-	3
1951....	74	-	50	-	1	-	4	300	160	28	81	2	1	-	-
1952....	94	-	41	9	-	2	3	345	13	16	48	2	-	6	-
1953....	117	-	35	2	-	-	5	288	144	12	38	-	-	-	13

These diseases are not the menacing infections they were during the pre-war years. This is not so much due to the less virulence of the infection but to the greater resistance of the people. We have learnt much of the value of vitamins in food and the cod liver oil and orange juice which begin with a baby's life today and the added vitamins to those foodstuffs deficient in them, together with wiser and better feeding, has helped considerably, perhaps completely, to minimise the ravage of infectious disease.

Diphtheria, the one time deadly menace of young children, is now apparently non-existent. There were 6 deaths from this disease in the years 1944 - 46, since when no case of diphtheria has occurred in a Farnworth resident. This is the result of the immunisation campaigns of former years.

Diphtheria may still occur in the non-immunised infant and it is still imperative that babies should be immunised in their first few months of life.

Diphtheria immunisation in the Borough is now combined with whooping cough vaccine.

It will be interesting to note in five or six years time whether there is a decline in the number of cases of whooping cough notified. It will depend on the percentage of children in the town who have been protected against this distressing disease.

Measles was in epidemic form in 1947 and 1948. In 1940 there were 501 cases of measles notified and as these epidemics are prone to occur in cycles we may expect a similar outbreak in 1955 or 1956.

In 1947 we had also the outbreak of infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis) in the country and there were 13 cases in the town.

The notifications of tuberculosis show little change other than

that the non-pulmonary is not quite so common. What is more important here is that the death rate for tuberculosis in the town is less, indicative that tuberculosis, early diagnosed and treated in a sanatorium, does result in cure.

Housing

There are 9,002 inhabited houses in the Borough, of which 2,748 are council houses. Since the war, 779 council houses, (of which 100 were of the pre-fabricated type) and 14 privately owned houses have been erected.

We have not yet reached the stage when we as an authority can build as many houses as we wish. It is true that the housing position has eased considerably, but progress is most unsatisfactory. There is still a formidable list of people waiting for houses. There is still overcrowding. There is still a delay in effecting speedy repair to old houses and there is still justifiable discontent among those people who have long waited for a house of their own.

It should be the right of any newly wedded couple to commence their married life in a home of their own, unencumbered and untrammelled by "in laws." Many marriages have foundered on this very rock. For a large number the house is a place in which to eat and sleep only, and comfort and enjoyment must be found elsewhere.

One of the most difficult tasks the Council has to do is to select from a long list of applicants tenants for new houses and it endeavours to do this solely on the merits and needs of the applicants. When there is no further need for the special committee of the Council who perform this onerous duty, no one will be more pleased than the members themselves who have spent long and weary hours seeking impartiality and justice in their decisions.

Clean Food

Among the many acts and regulations that came into force during the ten years was that which gave the Council power to make Byelaws for the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and the sale of food in the open air.

These Byelaws are based on the Model Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Health, and their effect should be evidenced in the decline in cases of food poisoning and of dysentery. It is still unfortunate that the loaf of bread can be sold with the minimum or entire absence of wrapping. Bread is a commodity that can carry infection with ease and since it is more often not subjected to heat, which destroys bacteria, it can be a potent source of infection.

The danger in food poisoning is more likely to occur in those foods which are sold already cooked.

The question of food hygiene and the prevention of food poisoning and dysentery is bound up with personal hygiene.

Sores, cuts, abrasions and wounds of any sort on the hands or fingers of those dealing with food, especially serving cooked foods, are sources of infection. All such wounds should be covered with a clean dressing and a rubber or other impervious material placed over the top.

For the general public, personal hygiene which emphasises the washing of hands after every visit to the lavatory and before touching any food, is the best preventive against the spread of infection.

Smoke Abatement

Throughout the country efforts are being directed towards the promotion of a purer atmosphere and smoke abatement is the first step in this direction. The prevention of smoke is not so easy to engineer. Much of the smoke nuisance comes from domestic fires. This can be eliminated by the installation of grates which will burn smokeless fuel or the all-electric house.

Smokeless fuel is not easy to obtain and electricity as a form of constant heat is not an economical proposition for the low wage earner.

Central heating is efficient provided the room is free from draughts, but open a window to ventilate a room and it takes an appreciable time to attain a comfortable temperature again.

Coal fires assist in the ventilation of a room and to the average citizen of this country a bright coal fire on a cold winter's night is the keystone of comfort in the home.

The emission of grit and dust is a different problem, most of which emanates from industrial chimneys. Electric power stations are constant offenders here.

The attainment of atmospheric purity is difficult to achieve and will take many years, but that should be no deterrent to the constant efforts of a health department and the general public in the pursuit of this very desirable benefit.

Health Department

No records are kept of the actual number of people who have, during the last ten years, consulted the staff of the health department on some problem or other. The number certainly runs in the thousands.

It has not always been possible to satisfy every caller, but the staff of the department do receive with sympathy and consideration the grievances and complaints brought to their notice.

The Annual Report for 1953 which follows conveys little idea of the time and energy which lie behind the figures.

It is difficult to correlate one with the other. A visit for property repairs may take half-an-hour all in all or it may take several hours in which the entire staff in turn play some part. There is no demarkation between visits paid during the hours of duty and those done at other times. These figures are, however, some indication of the many ramifications encompassed in the work of a Health Department. At all times we have received willing co-operation from the general practitioners in the town and relations with them have always been most cordial.

I am grateful to past and present Health Committees for their encouragement and help and to the members of the Health Department for their loyalty and co-operation.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

*FARNWORTH OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COUNCIL,

Secretary – Mr. G. Barfield, 23 Rawson Street, Farnworth,

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area = 1,504 statute acres.

Population.....	27,960	Estimated mid-1953
	28,614	Census 1951
Number of inhabited houses, 1931		7,104
Number of inhabited houses, 1953		9,002
Rateable Value (1st April, 1953)		£154,223
Sum represented by 1d. rate		£615

Vital Statistics for the Year 1953

BIRTHS	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	223	195	418
Illegitimate	8	5	13
	—	—	—
Total Births	231	200	431
	—	—	—
STILL BIRTHS	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Total	4	4	8
	—	—	—
	Farn- worth	England & Wales	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population..	15·4	15·5	
Still Births per 1,000 total births..	18	22·4	
Still Births per 1,000 population..	0·28	0·35	
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	9	5	14
	—	—	—
	Farn- worth	England & Wales	
INFANT MORTALITY RATE			
(all infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	32	26·8	
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	10		
Maternal deaths	2		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	4·56		
	Farn- worth	England & Wales	
DEATH RATE			
Per 1,000 population	11·7	11·4	

Causes of Death in All Ages in 1953

	Males	Females
Pulmonary tuberculosis	—	2
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	—	—
Meningococcal infections.....	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	8
Leukaemia.....	1	—
Diabetes.....	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	18
Coronary disease, angina	27	17
Hypertension with heart disease	5	2
Other heart disease	20	35
Other circulatory disease	7	9
Pneumonia	5	6
Bronchitis	15	9
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	3	1
Enteritis	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth	—	2
Accidental	7	—
Suicidal	2	2
Other	19	24
	<hr/> 170	<hr/> 155
Total		<hr/> 325

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA

There were no cases of diphtheria in the resident population of Farnworth during 1953.

SCARLET FEVER

Out of 117 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, 38 cases were treated in hospital. There were no deaths due to this disease.

PNEUMONIA

There were 35 cases notified and there were 11 deaths.

DYSENTERY

38 cases of dysentery were notified during the year. 16 cases were treated in hospital.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

9 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in Farnworth during the year, 6 of which belonged to outside districts.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

No case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified in Farnworth during 1953.

FOOD POISONING

There were 13 individual cases of food poisoning notified during 1953. 2 were due to salmonella enteriditis, 7 to salmonella typhi-murium, 1 to staphylococcus aureus and in 3 cases the causal organism was not found.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1953

Diseases	Age periods — years									Total
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65& over	
Scarlet fever	1	6	22	72	14	2	—	—	—	117
Measles (excluding rubella)	10	83	103	91	1	—	—	—	—	288
Whooping cough	11	39	50	44	—	—	—	—	—	144
Acute pneumonia	3	5	5	6	—	—	6	5	5	35
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Dysentery	4	10	3	11	3	1	3	3	—	38
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	5
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	6	—	13
Totals	29	143	183	224	20	7	14	16	6	642

TUBERCULOSIS

Age periods		New cases notified during the year			
		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
Years					
Under 15 years		1	—	2	—
20—		2	—	—	—
25—		—	1	1	—
35—		1	—	—	—
45—		3	—	—	—
65—		1	—	—	—
Totals		8	1	3	—

NO. OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE
REGISTER AT THE END OF 1953

	Males	Females
Pulmonary	54	59
Non-pulmonary	22	22

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

DISINFECTIONS

20 Wards at Bolton District General Hospital, at the request of the hospital authorities, and 38 houses were disinfected following cases of infectious disease.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds, and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity. All dwellings in the Borough are supplied directly with water.

The supply was from Heaton Sand Filters, Ferns Park Pressure Filters and the Sweetloves Open Sand Filters, and 36 samples of both raw and filtered water were subjected to full chemical analysis and 151 samples of raw and 152 samples of filtered water to bacteriological examination by the Bolton Borough Analyst. The results showed that general filtration and treatment of the raw water were necessary, and that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B. Coli being absent in almost all cases in 100 mls. All water is treated before passing into supply.

From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no plumbo-solvent action.

No action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

An additional 918 yards of water main, varying in diameter from 2 in. to 6 in. were laid in Farnworth during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

This is almost entirely on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Hall Lane Sewage Works and a subsidiary plant at Lark Hill.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at the end of 1953 :—

No. of privy middens	3
No. of closets attached to these middens	4
No. of pail closets	8
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	Nil
No. of movable ashbins.....	10,049
No. of trough closets	Nil
No. of waste water closets	131
No. of fresh water closets	10,064
No. of houses on water carriage system	9,023
No. of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets during the year	17

Gradual progress is being made in the conversion of waste water closets to fresh water closets, this work being encouraged by the local authority by a grant of £10 towards the cost of each conversion.

The privies and pail closets left in the area are on outlying farms where, at the moment, it is not practicable to connect to the public sewer.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE

This service is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. There is a weekly collection of house refuse and at the same time a collection of salvage carried out by three covered motor vehicles.

Refuse was disposed of by tipping in disused quarries and thus reclaiming the sites. A certain amount of nuisance was caused by this process owing to the impossibility of adopting the proper methods of controlled tipping. The quarries have now been completely filled in.

VERMIN INFESTATION

The incidence of infestation of houses with *cimex lectularius* (bed bugs) was small. It was not necessary to have any houses disinfested with hydrogen cyanide. 9 council houses and 33 privately owned houses were disinfested with D.D.T. in solution. One person was cleansed from an infestation of body lice.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 154

This section prohibits the giving of any article whatsoever to children under 14 years of age by persons engaged in collecting rags, old clothes or similar articles. 2 cases of rag gatherers contravening this section were reported by the County Police and there was one successful prosecution.

In many cases in Farnworth, the law is being evaded by the rag gatherers giving balloons and toys to the parents instead of to the children. The dangers of this practice are evident when one has seen balloons inflated by the mouths of rag gatherers and toys lying cheek by jowl with rags of doubtful cleanliness. Parents cannot be warned too strongly of the danger of accepting these articles in exchange for rags.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Pet shops are inspected in co-operation with the R.S.P.C.A. 3 shops were registered in Farnworth in 1953.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

23 observations were taken during the year.

In cases where smoke emission was excessive, consultations were held with the owners of the offending plants and in some cases better methods of hand firing resulted in an improvement ; in the case of 8 boilers, the installation of mechanical stokers have had the same effect.

There is room for great improvement in the case of atmospheric pollution in Farnworth. In co-operation with the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, two sets of apparatus have been installed to measure the amount of pollution in Farnworth, one being situated at the Hall Lane Sewage Works and the other at the Corporation Store Yard, Albert Road. There are 35 local authorities in the neighbourhood of Manchester who participate in this scheme. As the scheme in Farnworth has only been operating for a period of twelve months there has not been sufficient time to assess the results obtained.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1953
(INCLUDING HOUSING)

No. of premises visited 2,065

No. of Visits :—

Houses—Public Health Act	572
Houses—Housing Act	505
Houses—Re-inspections	1,942
Disinfections	66
Disinfestations	86
Infectious diseases	178
Factories	124
Bakehouses	52
Milk distributors	72
Baths	71
Offices	2
Food premises	378
Drainage work	303
Ice cream dealers	20
Rodent control	1,139
Mortuary	10
Smoke observations	23
Market	9
Butchers' shops	86
Farms	9
Outworkers	2
Fried fish shops	47
Overcrowding	14
Piggeries	4
Licensed premises	20
Schools	6
Shops Act	192
Pet shops	7
Cinemas	5
Caravans	8
General nuisances	115
Miscellaneous	113

Defects or nuisances :—

Number discovered	1,225
Number abated	1,223

Number of notices served :—

Informal	554
Statutory	280

SHOPS AND OFFICES	Inspections	Defects & Contraventions	Remedied
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	192	19	17
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e. ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.	2	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS :—

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power	19	2	—
Factories with mechanical power	104	25	—
Other premises	1	1	—
Total	124	28	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

	Found	Remedied	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—			
(a) Insufficient	3	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	68	36	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—
Total	73	38	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Act requires the Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the district is kept free from rats and mice and to that end to carry out such inspections as may be necessary, to destroy rats and mice on land of which the authority is the occupier and to enforce the duties of owners and occupiers under the Act.

Two rodent operatives are employed who maintain a continuous survey of the district, investigate all notifications by occupiers, carry out destruction measures. Twice each year they examine and treat the public sewers for rat infestation with the help of casual labour. Here it is well to point out that the notification of rodent infestation on premises is obligatory and is of great assistance to the Health Department.

Every such complaint is investigated and appropriate measures taken; whenever possible the source of infestation is found and dealt with. Very frequently in the case of rat infestation the source of infestation is found to be defects in the drainage system of the premises. The methods of treatment used are poisoning, trapping and gassing.

An analysis of the numbers of surface infestations found and treated follows, in which it will be seen that most of the infestations found and treated occurred in dwelling houses. It may be that there is some reluctance on the part of occupiers of business premises to notify slight infestations because of the charge for treatment that has to be made. Dwelling houses are treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used, the preliminary survey being carried out free of charge. It is, of course, open to the occupiers of business premises to carry out their own treatment privately.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Other (including business & Industrial)	
No. of properties in Local Authority's District . . .	19	9,031	10	922	9,982
No. of properties inspected by the Local Authority .	19	298	10	84	411
No. of properties found to be infested by rats	Major – Minor 3	– 36	– –	– 10	– 49
No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice	4	18	–	10	32
No. of infested properties treated by the local Authority	7	54	–	20	81
Total	52	9,437	20	1,046	10,555

Details of sewer treatments follow. The methods of treating the sewers is to place unpoisoned bait in measured quantities on the benching of the manholes on two successive days, and where

such bait is taken by rats, on the third day, poisoned bait is laid. All the manholes possible are treated once during the year and those manholes showing infestation are treated again six months later.

	May	November
Total number of manholes...	1084	1084
Dates of treatment	11th May to 6th June	2nd November to 21st November
Bait and poison	Bread mash and arsenic	Sausage rusk and zinc phosphide
Number of manholes baited.	1028	366
Number of manholes showing prebait take	103	36
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take on one or both days	77	16

PUBLIC BATHS

The Public Baths are owned by the Corporation and are under the control of the Health Committee.

The baths consist of one swimming bath 75 ft. long and 30 ft. wide, 61 cubicles, 2 large dressing rooms and 2 store rooms, 4 foot baths, 2 females' and 3 males' slipper baths. The water is kept in a clean and safe condition by means of a modern filtration plant consisting of filter tank, pump, motor, superheater, air compressor and aeration chamber, syphon, glass feed and chemical tanks. After filtration the water is chlorinated.

Mr. P. Currie, Baths Superintendent, retired in April, 1953.

MORTUARY

The Public Mortuary, situated in Gas Street, is the responsibility of the Health Committee, but its use is mainly determined by the County Police.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are 3 accredited dairy farms in the district and 5 other farms. The milk supplied from these farms for consumption without heat treatment was sampled on 17 occasions, primarily for the presence of bovine tuberculosis but also for keeping quality.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, 150 persons were granted dealers' licences to sell sterilised milk and 9 persons to sell pasteurised milk. 9 dealers' licences for the sale of tuberculin-tested milk were also granted.

During 1953, 21 persons were registered as milk distributors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. 2 dairies are registered in the district.

16 samples of milk were examined during the year. In 1 case, tubercle bacillus was found to be present in the milk. Steps were taken for the herd affected to be examined and the animal responsible was found and slaughtered.

ICE CREAM

4 premises are registered as being suitable for the manufacture of ice cream and were so used during the year.

6 premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream, making a total of 93 registered in Farnworth.

20 inspections of ice cream dealers' and manufacturers' premises were made during the year. 11 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. Of these 4 were Grade 1, 4 were Grade 2, 2 were Grade 3 and 1 was Grade 4. Steps were taken to improve the grading of the unsatisfactory producers.

PREPARATION, SALE AND STORAGE OF FOOD

583 inspections of premises where food is prepared or sold were made during the year. Proprietors responded readily to informal requests by inspectors to remedy minor infringements of the Food and Drugs Act, and the byelaws relating to the handling and wrapping of food. The provision of hot water supplies in all food premises and the protection of food from contamination continues to receive special attention.

The following food was condemned and surrendered :—

Fresh meat (beef, pork, lamb, liver) . . .	24 cwt. 49½ lb.
Bacon	35 lb. 6 oz.
Cooked ham (canned)	4 cwt. 62½ lb.
Ox tongue (canned)	1 cwt. 82 lb.
Tins of meat	81 tins
Tins of fruit and vegetable	1,083 tins
Tins of fish	9 tins
Tins of milk	56 tins

PRESERVED FOOD

34 inspections were made of premises used in connection with the sale of preserved food. 2 premises were registered in 1953 making a total of 27 registered in Farnworth.

HAWKERS

12 hawkers of food and their premises were on the register at the end of 1953.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Officer in collaboration with the local Sanitary Officer.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :—

Milk	108
Other articles	56

The other 56 articles comprised :—

3 Custard powder	1 Sago
3 Tea	2 Soup, canned
2 Cocoa	2 Sodium bicarbonate
1 Pearl barley	2 Ice cream
1 Ground ginger	1 Sweets (butterscotch)
2 Golden raising powder	4 Sweets
1 Milk condensed, machine skimmed, sweetened	3 Sponge cake and sponge pudding mixture
1 Vienna sausages, canned	3 Pancake and Yorkshire pudding mixture
1 Margarine	4 Bread
1 Cooking fat	1 Olive oil
1 Baking powder	1 Pure Devon cream, canned
1 Coffee	1 Cod liver oil
1 Unrationed fat	2 Sugar
4 Pork sausage	1 Frozen lamb's liver
2 Processed cheese	1 Dripping
1 Rice	1 Beef sausage

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

SAMPLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
1 informal pork sausage.	Deficient 36% of the minimum percentage of meat.	Formal sample obtained.
1 formal pork sausage	Deficient 42% of the minimum percentage of meat.	Prosecution. Vendor fined £5 and 4 guineas costs.
1 informal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.6% of extraneous water.	Same vendor. Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 informal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 3.1% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.6% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(i) By the local authority.....	64
	20 flats
(ii) By other local authorities	2
(iii) By other bodies or persons	7

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	361
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	3,029
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	15
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	26
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	322

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	214
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs.	16
2. Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :—	
(a) By owners	8
(b) By local authority in default of owners..	1
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	123

2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	48
(b)	By local authority in default of owners..	—
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
2.	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	9
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
4.	HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV — OVERCROWDING	
(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	40
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	50
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	297
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	9
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	11
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	69

Housing Conditions

1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS

Of 9,031 houses in the town, 2,690 are Corporation houses aged from 30 years to newly built, and are in good condition ; of the remainder, approximately 3,000 houses are old (50 years or more) lacking in modern amenities, have solid walls and dampness is a prevalent defect in them. Most of them are 4 room cottage type, easily overcrowded.

2. SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES

At the end of 1953, 773 applications for Corporation houses had been received from families in lodgings. Approximately 40 houses were known to be overcrowded.

3. FITNESS OF HOUSES

Notices for essential repairs are continually being served by the Health Department but there has been little opportunity for the improvement of housing standards, as distinct from the maintenance of existing standards.

